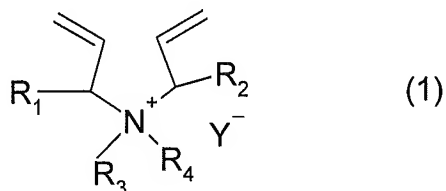


In the claims:

1. **(currently amended)** A polymeric compound comprising a main backbone derived from at least the following monomeric components:

(I) 20 to 99.9% by weight of at least one cationic monomer according to formula (1)



where

R₁ and R₂ are, independently of one another, hydrogen or C₁-C₄ alkyl;

R₃ and R₄ are, independently of one another, hydrogen, or an alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, carboxyalkyl, carboxyamidealkyl or alkoxyalkyl group having from 1 to 18 carbon atoms; and

Y⁻ represents an anion;

(II) 0.1 to 80% by weight of a hydrophobic unsaturated nonionic monomer that polymerizes in the presence of an initiator selected from the group consisting of styrene, esters of (meth)acrylic acid, (meth)acrylonitrile, esters of unsaturated polyfunctional acids and vinyl esters of C₂ to C₁₈ carboxylic acids; optionally

(III) a water-soluble monomer different from either monomer (I) and monomer (II) selected from the group consisting of vinyl amine, vinyl alcohol, vinyl derivatives of dimethyl siloxane, aminosiloxanes, hydroxyalkyl acrylates, (meth)acrylic acid and (meth)acrylic acid salts; in an amount between 0 to 60% by weight, and optionally

(IV) a crosslinking agent, in an amount between 0 to 10% by weight.

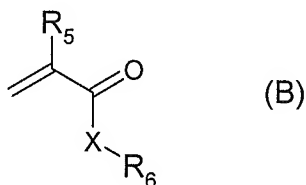
2. **(original)** A polymeric compound according to claim 1 wherein at least one cationic monomer (I) is selected from the group consisting of diallyldimethyl ammonium chloride (DADMAC), diallyldimethyl ammonium bromide, diallyldimethyl ammonium sulfates, diallyldimethyl ammonium phosphates, dimethallyl dimethyl ammonium chloride, diethylallyl dimethyl ammonium chloride, diallyl di(beta-hydroxyethyl) ammonium chloride, and diallyl di(beta-ethoxyethyl) ammonium chloride.

3. **(original)** A polymeric compound according to claim 1 wherein at least one cationic monomer (I) is diallyldimethyl ammonium chloride (DADMAC).

4. **(original)** A polymeric compound according to claim 1 wherein hydrophobic monomeric reactant (II) has a value for water solubility of less than about 50g/100g of water at room temperature and a pH of 7.

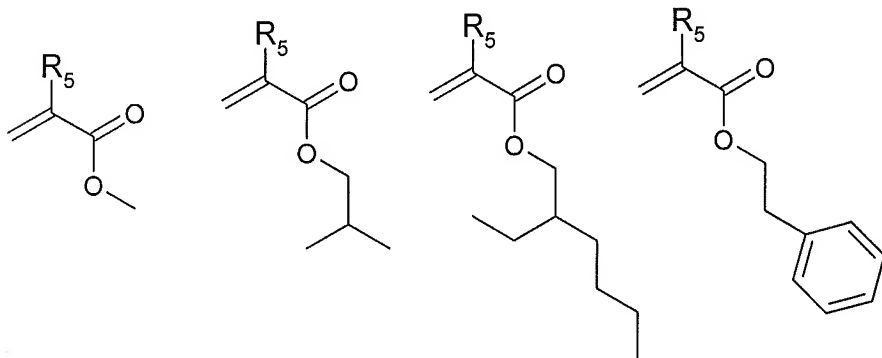
5-6. **(cancelled)**

7. **(currently amended)** A polymeric compound according to claim 1 wherein at least one hydrophobic monomer (II) is represented by formula (B)



where R_5 is H or CH_3 , and R_6 is C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy, C_1 - C_6 alkylphenyl that may be substituted one to three times by C_1 - C_{12} alkyl or C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy, or C_1 - C_6 alkylphenyl interrupted one or more times by oxygen wherein the phenyl group may be substituted one to three times by C_1 - C_{12} alkyl or C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy; C_1 - C_6 alkylhydroxy and X is a divalent oxygen radical, ~~selected from -O-, -NH- and -NR₇-, wherein R₇ is C₁-C₆alkyl.~~

8. **(original)** A polymeric compound according to claim 1 wherein hydrophobic monomer (II) is selected from the group consisting of



wherein R_5 is H or CH_3 .

9. **(original)** A polymeric compound according to claim 1 wherein water-soluble monomer (III) has a value for water solubility greater than 50g/100g water at room temperature and at a pH of 7.

10. **(cancelled)**

11. **(original)** A polymeric compound according to claim 1 having an average molecular weight in the range of 1000 to 5 million Daltons.

12. **(original)** A cleaning product comprising the polymeric compound according to claim 1 and an effective amount of one or more surfactants.

13. **(original)** A cleaning product according to claim 12 in the form of a laundry detergent, fabric conditioner, pre-treatment agent, after treatment agent or tumble dry sheet having improved dye fixation and dye transfer inhibition.

14. **(original)** A cleaning product according to claim 12 in the form of a dishwashing formulation.

15. **(original)** A cleaning product according to claim 12 comprising 0.001% to 50% by weight of said polymeric compound.

16. **(currently amended)** A cleaning product according to claim 12 further comprising at least one modifying ingredient selected from the group consisting of softeners, perfumes, soil release polymers, colorants, preservatives, antimicrobials with various activities against various microorganisms, insect repellents, dust mites repellents and/or otherwise controlling agents, optical brighteners, UV absorbers, other light management agents, ionization agents, antifoam agents, enzymes of various kinds, bleaching agents, oxidation catalysts, zeolites, and odor suppressing agents, including but not limited to cyclodextrin and its various derivatives.

17. **(original)** A textile processing formulation comprising 0.001% to 50% by weight of a polymeric compound according to claim 1 in liquid or solid form.

18. **(original)** Dyeing or printing auxiliaries and/or finishing agents comprising the textile formulation according to claim 17.

19. **(currently amended)** A method for textile processing comprising addition of the textile formulation according to claim 17 before, during and after dyeing ~~or other types of finishing processes~~ to improve the wet fastness and prevent color fading of the textile